



## Message from the Governor and State Education Secretary



Each day, educators across the state seek to shape young minds, to inspire young hearts and to nurture young leaders. We commend South Dakota's educators - teachers, administrators, counselors and school workers - for their dedication to the state's youth. You should be proud of the work you do.

It's an exciting time for education in South Dakota. There is a renewed sense of energy in the field - thanks in part to the No Child Left Behind Act. The federal legislation has gone a long way in bringing education issues to the forefront and creating a sense of urgency for improving the nation's schools.

As for South Dakota's education system, it is in good shape overall. Granted, we have areas that need improvement. The new 2010 Education Initiative, which you will hear more about in the coming months, will identify those areas that need work. It will provide a vision for our statewide education system as well as a road map for reaching that vision by the year 2010.

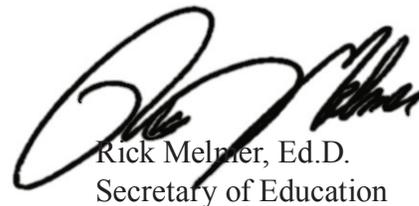
The following pages provide a snapshot of education in South Dakota. While we should be proud of the accomplishments herein, we would be remiss to think that there are not challenges ahead.

The Governor's Office and Department of Education pledge to remain focused on finding innovative, yet practical, solutions to improving our education system and our children's future.

Sincerely,



M. Michael Rounds  
Governor



Rick Melner, Ed.D.  
Secretary of Education

# Table of Contents

---

Putting Kids First.....	1
Year-End Highlights.....	1
Student Profile.....	4
Student Success.....	6
NCLB 2003.....	9
Schools and Personnel.....	11
Post Secondary Technical Institutes.....	12
Finances.....	13
Staff and Boards.....	14



The 2003-04 Annual Report is dedicated to Karon Schaack. Over the course of 26 years of service to the Department of Education, Schaack earned the respect of South Dakota's education community, as a leader with a commitment and passion for quality schools.

## Putting Kids First

South Dakota's Department of Education aims to put kids first. In order to do that, we focus our efforts on promoting leadership and service among administrators and educators, who touch the lives of children on a daily basis. The department has identified seven goals for 2004-05 to ensure that South Dakota students have the best educational opportunities available. They are as follows:

- Maintain high quality schools
- Enhance professional development for educators
- Prepare high school students for successful post-secondary education
- Communicate effectively with schools and families
- Develop systems, standards for preschool education
- Institute regional Education Service Agencies
- Improve Native American student achievement

## Year-End Highlights 2003-04

*Fast-paced and proactive describe department's year*

Fast-paced and proactive describe the Department of Education's year for 2003-04. During the past 12 months, we established service-oriented regional agencies; outfitted public libraries with new computers; developed an assessment system for new teachers; and instituted a popular Summer Reading Achievers Program for students. Some of the highlights are below.

### Bringing services closer to schools

To better serve South Dakota schools, the Department of Education established seven regional Education Service Agencies across the state. The agencies – housed at existing educational cooperatives and Northern State University – will begin offering services in fall 2004. Education Service Agencies will deliver assistance with curriculum alignment, professional development and school improvement support. Locations include: Hayti, Sioux Falls, Platte, Aberdeen, Isabel, Pierre and Rapid City.

### Advancing Native American education

The department stepped up efforts to improve Native American education in the state. Under Gov. Rounds' leadership, an advisory council specific to Native American education was created, and the first-ever Indian education summit was held. Plans are underway to re-establish the state Office of Indian Education within the Department of Education.

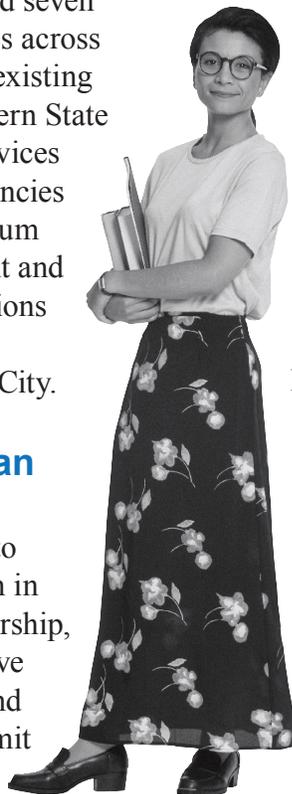
### Enhancing teacher leadership

Gov. Mike Rounds and the Department of Education hosted the inaugural Teacher Leadership Conference. More than 475 teachers representing schools statewide gathered to discuss strategies for implementing No Child Left Behind Act requirements. The agenda covered state standards, state testing and assessment systems, the statewide accountability system, scientifically based instructional strategies, and requirements regarding highly qualified teachers.

### Developing accountability for NCLB

In the spring of 2003, students in grades 3-8 and 11 completed the new Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (STEP) assessment. The results provide a baseline for measuring adequate yearly progress under the No Child Left Behind Act.

South Dakota's schools fared well on this first assessment – surpassing statewide goals for proficiency in reading and math for 2003. Of the 67,000 students who took the Dakota



STEP, 71 percent were proficient or advanced in reading, and 59 percent were proficient or advanced in math.

### Promoting summer reading as part of NCLB

South Dakota was *the only state in the nation* selected to participate in the No Child Left Behind Summer Reading Achievers Program. Participating sites were chosen based on the presence of supportive community and business groups and active school district leaders. The Summer Reading Achievers Program aims to keep K-8 students actively reading during the summer months. More than 40,000 students registered to participate.

### Attacking literacy issues

The Department of Education received a \$14.5 million grant to fund its Reading First program. The initiative is designed to achieve reading improvement in young readers. Over the next six years, the grant money will be used to help schools implement research-based reading programs for K-3 students and to provide professional development opportunities, so that teachers have the skills necessary to teach these programs. Nine school districts (McLaughlin, Smee, White River, Mitchell, Watertown, Pierre, Bennett County, Bon Homme and Wagner) received funding through the program in 2003-04.

### Boosting career and technical education

Career and technical education got a \$500,000 boost from the 2004 Legislature. These new dollars, distributed by the Department of Education, will supplement career and technical education at the high school level, since many schools have cut their programs. The following projects received funding: Western Dakota Technical Institute for

its agriculture-education mobile laboratory and Mid-Central Cooperative/Rapid City Central High School for a distance learning collaborative.

### NAEP: Students rank in the top 10

For the first time ever, South Dakota participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, which measures student knowledge and skills in core academic subjects. Students' scores for 2002-03 – the most recent scores available – ranked among the top 10 nationwide in reading and math. In addition, South Dakota students with disabilities scored above the national average, as did students eligible for free and reduced lunch. These above-average NAEP results demonstrate our students' competitiveness at a national level.

### Taking technology to the classroom

The department's final Technology for Teaching and Learning Academies were held in summer 2003. More than 1,290 teachers, administrators and para-professionals received training in how to integrate technology into education. Since the academies were started in 1997, the department has trained more than 9,000 individuals, with 5,000 attending the four-week basic academy! Participants learned everything from basic computer applications to Web authoring and desktop publishing.

### Providing dollars to schools

State aid to schools reached nearly \$338.9 million for FY04. Schools statewide benefited from these dollars that help support general education, special education, alternative education, post-secondary institutes, and technology in the schools. In addition to state aid, the department oversaw distribution of major grants such as Title I and the National School Lunch Program to a tune of nearly \$119.5 million.

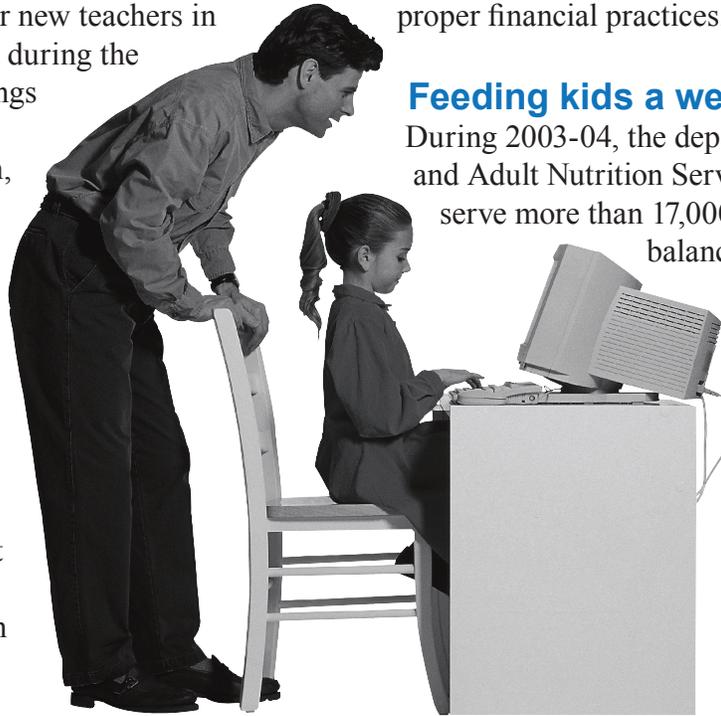


## Equipping local libraries with computers

Public libraries across South Dakota received one (or more) public access computers, thanks to the South Dakota State Library. As part of its mission to promote lifelong learning, the State Library applied for a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Library Foundation. Implemented in 2003-04, the total dollar value of the donated equipment, training and onsite assistance exceeded \$1 million. Additional computers in local libraries allow more South Dakota citizens access to the “information superhighway.”

## Ensuring teacher quality

An assessment system for new teachers in South Dakota took shape during the year. In a series of meetings spearheaded by the Department of Education, Educational Testing Services and education professionals statewide recommended qualifying scores on 39 Praxis content and pedagogy tests. New teachers who pass a content test demonstrate their mastery of a subject area, ensuring that our classrooms are filled with knowledgeable, first-rate instructors. The Board of Education is slated to review the recommended scores at its November 2004 meeting.



## Promoting healthy schools

To promote healthy practices among youth, the department introduced the Governor’s Healthy School program. Schools that are leading the way in health education and healthy practices will be recognized for their efforts. Top winners receive a \$5,000 award for their school!

## Completing successful federal reviews

Federal reviewers completed comprehensive evaluations of the department’s Title I and Perkins programs. Both were successful – a testimony to the department’s strong accountability and dedication to serving the schools of this state. Federal reviews ensure accountability, quality and proper financial practices.

## Feeding kids a well-balanced diet

During 2003-04, the department’s Child and Adult Nutrition Services helped to serve more than 17,000,000 nutritionally balanced lunches through the National School Lunch Program. Many students received their lunches free or at a reduced cost. South Dakota schools served approximately 31,181 free lunches and 8,933 reduced-price lunches per day last year through this program!

## Student Profile

Enrollment in South Dakota's public K-12 schools declined 4.6 percent from 1999 to 2003. Neighboring states such as Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming also saw decreases in enrollment from 1996 to 2001, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. The state's two largest districts – Sioux Falls and Rapid City – accounted for 26.5 percent of public school students.

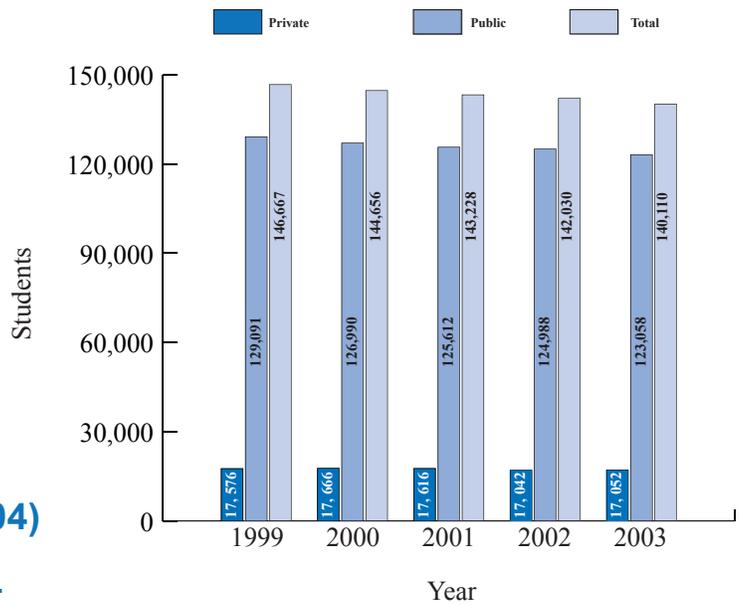
### K-12 Enrollment by District (Fall 2003)

Aberdeen	3747	Faith	208	Newell	400
Agar-Blunt-Onida	294	Faulkton	305	Northwest	7
Alcester-Hudson	341	Flandreau	675	Northwestern	277
Andes Central	380	Florence	219	Oelrichs	92
Arlington	324	Freeman	412	Oldham-Ramona	138
Armour	205	Garretson	500	Parker	424
Artesian-Letcher	245	Gayville-Volin	253	Parkston	661
Avon	261	Geddes	96	Pierre	2645
Baltic	342	Gettysburg	324	Plankinton	204
Belle Fourche	1313	Grant-Deuel	228	Platte	428
Bennett County	521	Gregory	409	Pollock	99
Beresford	717	Groton	563	Polo	10
Big Stone City	89	Haakon	314	Rapid City	13001
Bison	137	Hamlin	595	Redfield	659
Bon Homme	671	Hanson	328	Rosholt	219
Bonesteel-Fairfax	162	Harding County	236	Roslyn	153
Bowdle	137	Harrisburg	1006	Rutland	115
Brandon Valley	2661	Harrold	83	Scotland	282
Bridgewater	194	Henry	163	Selby	233
Bristol	97	Herreid	147	Shannon County	997
Britton-Hecla	526	Hill City	538	Sioux Falls	19623
Brookings	2729	Hitchcock	96	Sioux Valley	527
Burke	237	Hot Springs	861	Sisseton	1185
Canistota	273	Hoven	152	Smee	231
Canton	944	Howard	412	South Shore	113
Carthage	9	Hurley	165	Spearfish	1975
Castlewood	280	Huron	2103	Stanley County	582
Centerville	265	Hyde	249	Stickney	150
Chamberlain	908	Ipswich	384	Summit	113
Chester	347	Irene	213	Tea Area	692
Clark	437	Iroquois	196	Timber Lake	305
Colman-Egan	295	Isabel	117	Todd County	2093
Colome	180	Jones County	177	Tripp-Delmont	282
Conde	74	Kadoka	333	Tri-Valley	798
Corsica	184	Kimball	275	Tulare	174
Cresbard	120	Lake Preston	233	Vermillion	1319
Custer	999	Langford	231	Viborg	269
Dakota Valley	903	Lead-Deadwood	1094	Wagner	733
De Smet	299	Lemmon	364	Wakonda	166
Dell Rapids	940	Lennox	998	Wall	290
Deubrook	380	Leola	244	Warner	307
Deuel	566	Lyman	385	Watertown	3838
Doland	162	Madison Central	1222	Waubay	227
Douglas	2516	Marion	270	Waverly	129
Dupree	256	McCook Central	380	Webster	494
Eagle Butte	324	McIntosh	165	Wessington	65
Edgemont	174	McLaughlin	460	Wessington Springs	326
Edmunds Central	171	Meade	2636	West Central	1153
Elk Mountain	22	Menno	319	White Lake	172
Elk Point-Jefferson	681	Midland	78	White River	387
Elkton	345	Milbank	981	Willow Lake	212
Elm Valley	225	Miller	528	Wilmot	262
Emery	182	Mitchell	2583	Winner	931
Estelline	296	Mobridge	576	Wolsey	196
Ethan	203	Montrose	221	Wood	47
Eureka	229	Mount Vernon	275	Woonsocket	187
		New Underwood	273	Yankton	3091

## Attendance and Graduation Rates

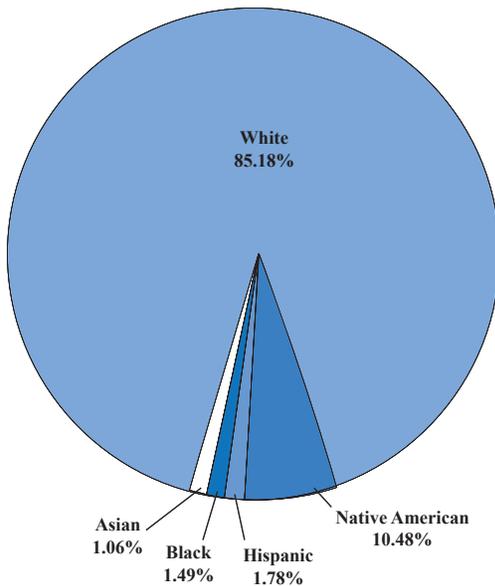
- South Dakota's attendance rate has stayed steady - at an impressive 95 percent - over the last 10 years.
- The state's dropout rate, which covers grades 7-12, was just 1.6 percent in 2002-03, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

## K-12 Enrollment (Fall)

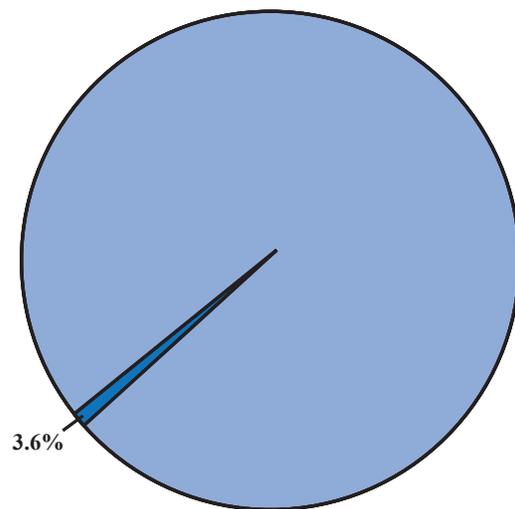


## K-12 Demographic Profile (2003-04)

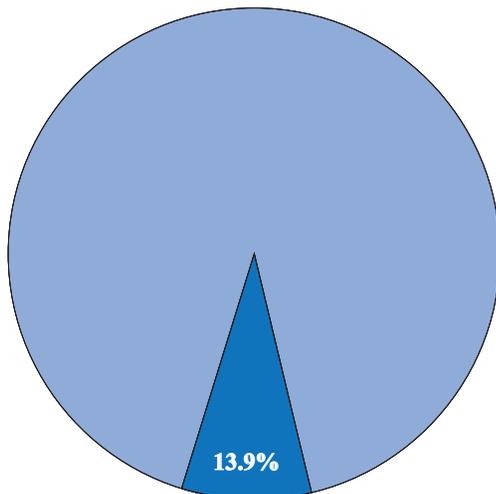
Percent of Total Enrollment - Ethnic breakdown



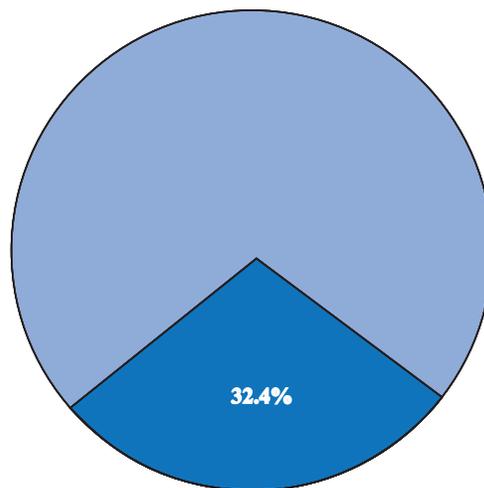
Percent of Total Enrollment - Students with Limited English proficiency



Percent of Total Enrollment - Students with disabilities



Percent of Total Enrollment - Students eligible for free or reduced lunch



## Student Success

South Dakota students routinely score better than the national average on tests that compare their knowledge with students around the country. Supported by a dedicated, high-quality teaching force and access to the most up-to-date technology, our students enter post-secondary education or the workforce with a solid start.

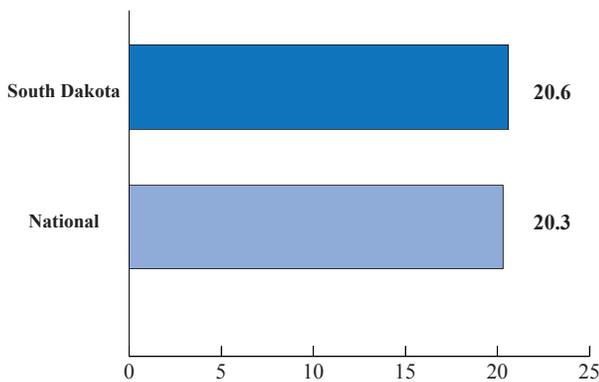
### ACT Assessment

A curriculum-based achievement test, the ACT is made up of four separate exams in English, reading, mathematics and science. South Dakota students who took the test in 2003 outperformed their peers in all four areas. Composite scores for the past five years are outlined below, as are individual scores for 2003. The ACT is scored on a scale of 1 to 36, with 36 being the highest possible score.

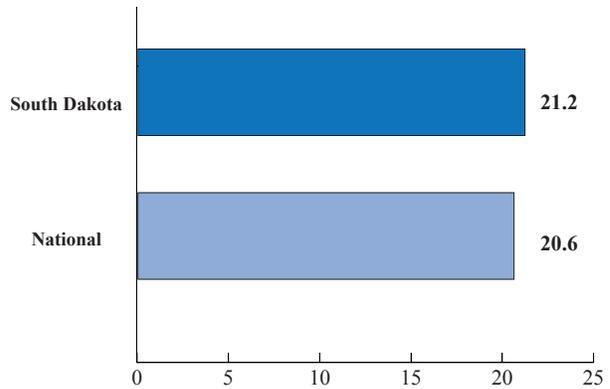
#### ACT Average Composite Score

	South Dakota	National
1999	21.2	21.0
2000	21.5	21.0
2001	21.4	21.0
2002	21.4	20.8
2003	21.4	20.8

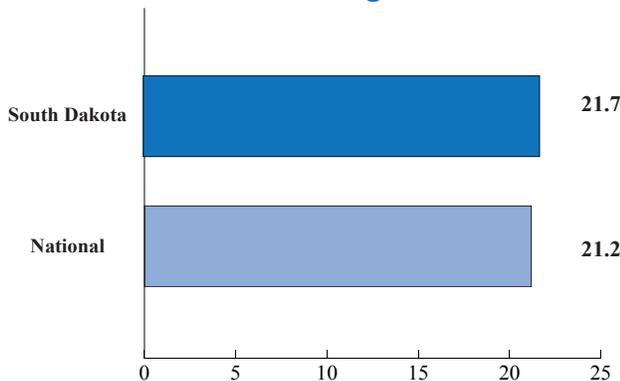
2003 Average ACT Test Scores: English



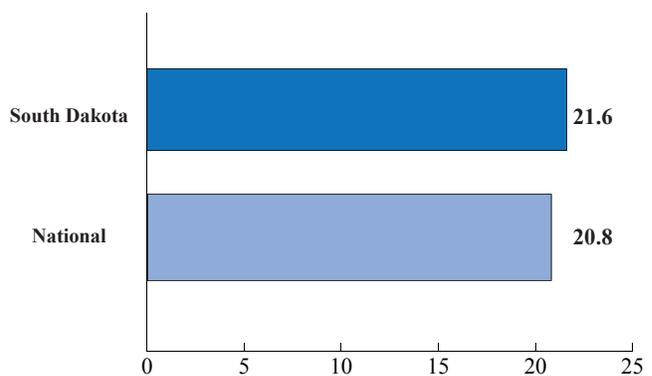
2003 Average ACT Test Scores: Mathematics



2003 Average ACT Test Scores: Reading



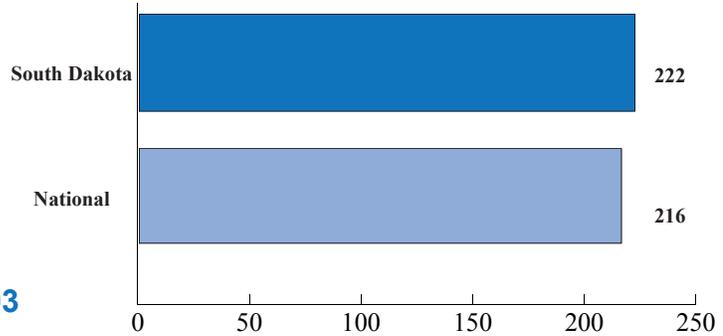
2003 Average ACT Test Scores: Science



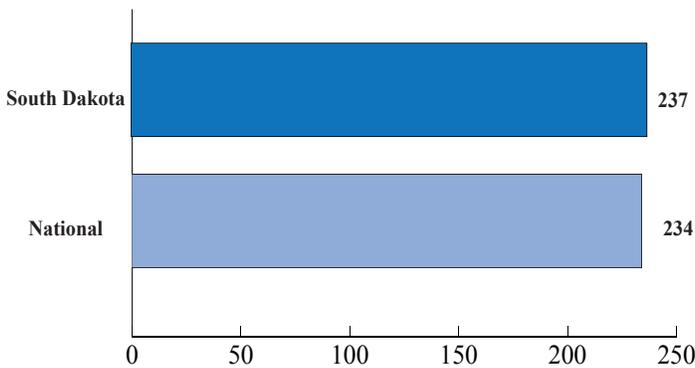
## National Assessment of Educational Progress

Administered for the first time in South Dakota, the NAEP national standardized test measures what students know in various subject areas. South Dakota's scores ranked among the top 10 in the nation. More than 12,000 South Dakota students participated in the assessment between Jan. 27 and March 7, 2003. NAEP scores range from 0 to 500, with 500 being the highest score.

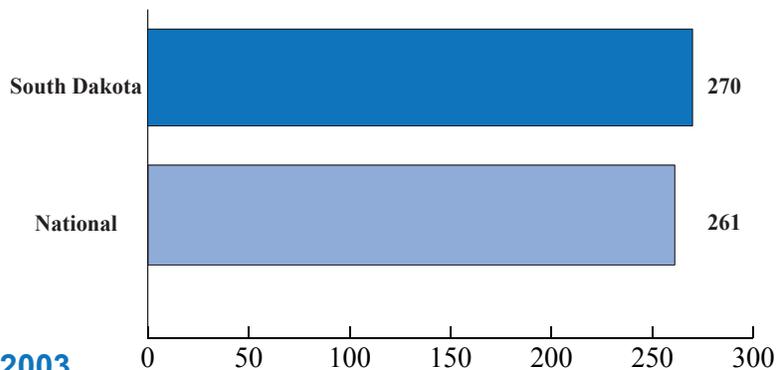
**NAEP Scale Scores 2003  
Grade 4 Reading**



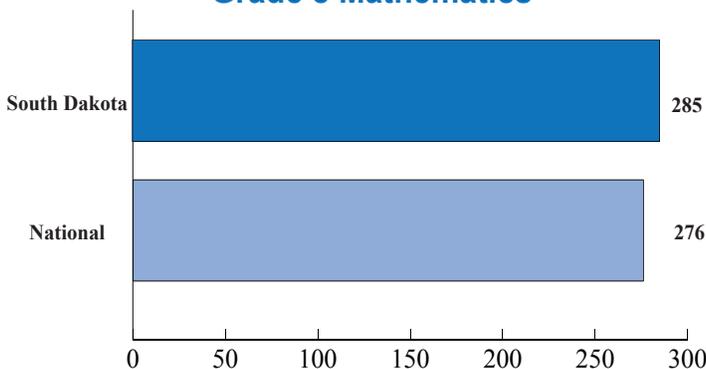
**NAEP Scale Scores 2003  
Grade 4 Mathematics**



**NAEP Scale Scores 2003  
Grade 8 Reading**



**NAEP Scale Scores 2003  
Grade 8 Mathematics**



## Stanford 10 Abbreviated

Approximately 73,000 students took the Stanford 10 AB, which compares our students to a national norm. Results released in May 2004 show that South Dakota's scores in every subject area improved or remained the same at every grade level, compared to 2003. The largest gains came in the lower grades, with the youngest students – grade 3 – moving up 8 percentile points in overall rank. Percentile rank scores range from 1 to 99, with 50 being the national average.

### Stanford 10 Abbreviated (State Averages 2003-04)

#### Percentile Rank

	Year	Reading	Math	Language	Science	Social Science	Total Battery
Grade 3	2003	54	55	53	57	52	54
	2004	61	67	57	63	65	62
Grade 4	2003	60	66	48	66	68	61
	2004	63	70	51	69	70	65
Grade 5	2003	59	64	59	67	71	63
	2004	61	68	60	69	72	65
Grade 6	2003	56	62	61	63	66	61
	2004	57	65	62	63	66	62
Grade 7	2003	60	66	64	63	64	62
	2004	60	68	66	63	64	63
Grade 8	2003	62	66	61	67	64	63
	2004	62	68	62	68	64	64
Grade 11	2003	72	70	55	71	65	66
	2004	73	72	57	72	66	67

## No Child Left Behind: 2003 Report Card

In August 2003, the Department of Education posted its first-ever state Report Card, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. The Report Card identifies Dakota STEP assessment results, attendance/graduation rates, and teacher qualifications for the state, individual districts and schools. At the state level, South Dakota exceeded its goals for overall proficiency in both reading and math for 2003.

- 71% of all students were proficient or advanced in reading (2003 goal: 69%)
- 59% of all students were proficient or advanced in math (2003 goal: 52%)
- 17 schools were identified as “distinguished” under NCLB
- 32 schools – just 2.79% – were identified for “improvement” under NCLB; 199 were “on alert”\*
- 88.7% of classes were taught by highly qualified teachers (goal: 100% by 2006)

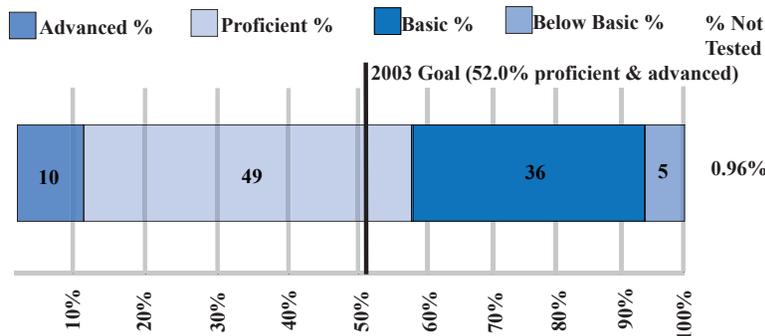
\* “Improvement” status means two consecutive years of no adequate yearly progress, as identified under NCLB. “Alert” status means one year of no adequate yearly progress.

## Dakota STEP Assessment

The Dakota STEP Assessment measures student progress on South Dakota’s content standards in reading and math. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 complete the test, which was administered for the first time in 2003.

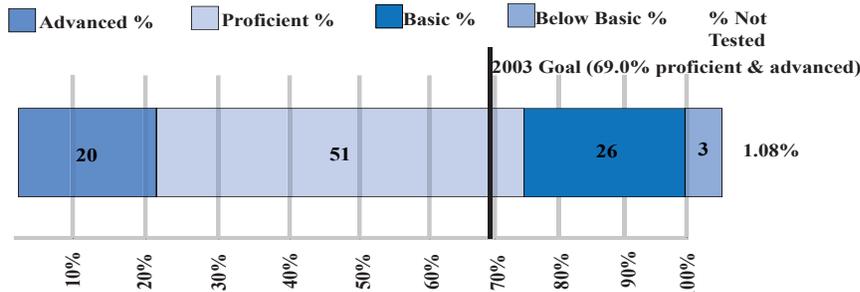
### Math All Grades 2003

No Child Left Behind Math Scores 2003 - All Students



### Reading All Grades 2003

No Child Left Behind Reading Scores 2003 - All Students



## Helping schools implement NCLB

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 called for a dramatic overhaul of the nation's educational system. One of its major tenants is stronger accountability for results.

In developing its statewide accountability system, the South Dakota Department of Education took aggressive steps to develop a fair and clear-cut system - one based on research, conversations with people in the field, and thoughtful deliberation. The result - our state Accountability Workbook - was approved by the U.S. Department of Education on June 17, 2004.

The Department of Education offers schools numerous resources related to NCLB, including:

- \* school support teams to provide assistance to schools/districts to develop improvement plans
- \* scientifically researched tools/resources to develop curriculum and instruction related to school improvement
- \* training for educators/administrators responsible for meeting adequate yearly progress goals
- \* data retreats to promote data-based decision making
- \* professional development opportunities to meet highly qualified teacher status and to improve instruction
- \* additional funds to Title I schools in improvement status

## NCLB: Frequently asked questions

### What is NCLB?

The No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law by President Bush on Jan. 8, 2002. Designed to improve student achievement, NCLB is built on four main principles: accountability for results; an emphasis on doing what works based on scientific research; expanded parental options; and expanded local control and flexibility.

### What is the end result of NCLB?

The goal of NCLB is that *all* students will be proficient in math and reading by the school year 2013-14.

### How is progress measured under NCLB?

Under NCLB, states are to institute fair and effective annual tests for students in grades 3-8 and one in the high school grades. In South Dakota, we use the Dakota STEP test, administered to grades 3-8 and 11. The results of this test help to determine if students are making progress in meeting the state's content standards. These results also identify areas that need attention. Annual measurable objectives have been set to ensure that South Dakota is on track to meet the goal of 100 percent proficiency by 2013-14.

### What if a school or district does not show improvement?

If a school or district does not show adequate improvement, they will receive extra help with planning and technical assistance. The South Dakota Department of Education can provide numerous resources. If a Title I school doesn't meet its target for growth two years in a row, parents have a right to transfer their child to another school within the district, and the district must pay for transportation.

### Where can I find information on my school's progress?

Each year, the South Dakota Department of Education issues a State Report Card, which outlines performance at the school, district and state level. It's available on the department's Web site.

## Schools and Personnel

South Dakota had 172 public school districts in 2003-04, down from 178 a decade ago. Instructional positions made up the majority of school staff, and 60 percent of classroom teachers were ages 41 and up. South Dakota's student-to-teacher ratio compares well with the national average, and classroom teachers continue to push our students to academic excellence.

### Number of Schools (2003-04)

Public school districts	172
Non-public school systems	49
BIA school systems	20
Multi-districts & cooperatives	17
Community-based service providers	16
Alternative programs (stand alone)	8
Special education schools	5
Special populations	4
Correctional facilities	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>293</b>

### Teachers/Classroom Staff: FTEs per Age Range (2003-04)

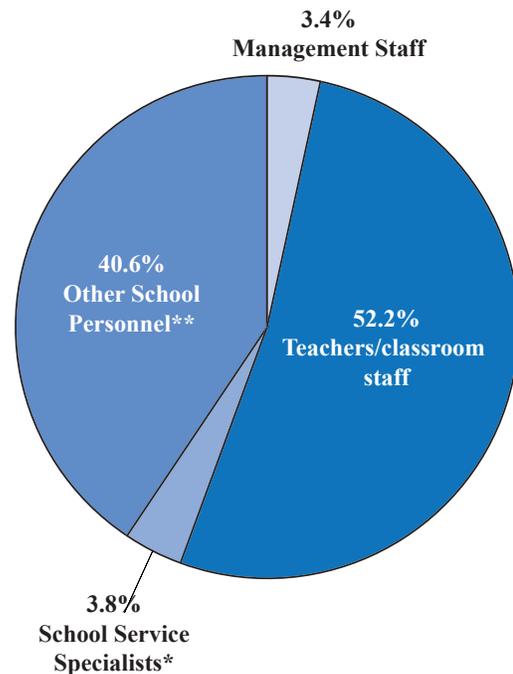
Age	FTEs	Percent of Total
20-30	1400.34	15.37
31-40	2173.56	23.86
41-50	2573.76	28.25
51+	2962.49	32.52

### DOE's distance learning keeps schools connected

In a state characterized by rural living, distance learning continues to provide tremendous educational opportunities. The Department of Education leads the charge in bringing the technology of the Digital Dakota Network to schools, businesses and communities across the state. Below is a snapshot of DDN programming in 2003-04.

- Nearly **625 teachers** participated in professional development opportunities via the DDN.
- More than **11,795 students statewide** participated in classes, workshops or similar programming via the DDN.
- Nearly **77,200 videoconferences** were held via the DDN, accounting for 88,223 hours.

### Staff Breakdown (2003-04 FTEs)



\*Includes guidance counselors, librarians, speech pathologists, etc.

\*\*Includes custodians, secretaries, cooks, school nurses, educational assistants, etc.

## Post-Secondary Technical Institutes

Within South Dakota, four school districts operate a technical institute. The South Dakota Board of Education is the policy-making board for these entities, while the Department of Education oversees areas such as instructor credentialing, program development and elimination, and financial management of state and federal allocations.

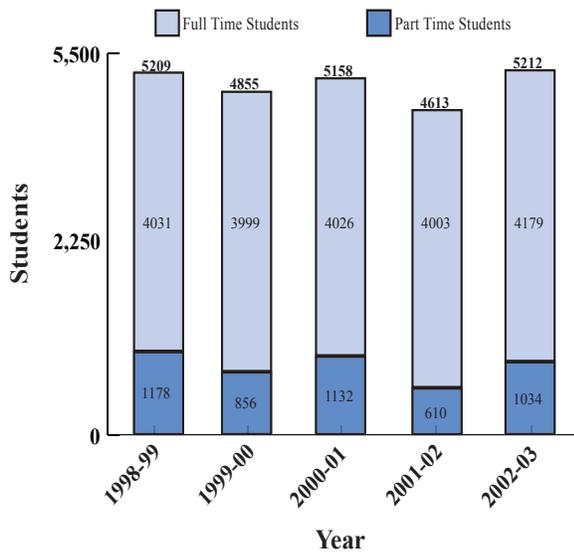
Lake Area Technical Institute, Watertown  
 (605) 882-LATI or 1-800-657-4344  
<http://lati.tec.sd.us/>

Southeast Technical Institute, Sioux Falls  
 (605) 367-7624 or 1-800-247-0789  
<http://www.southeasttech.com>

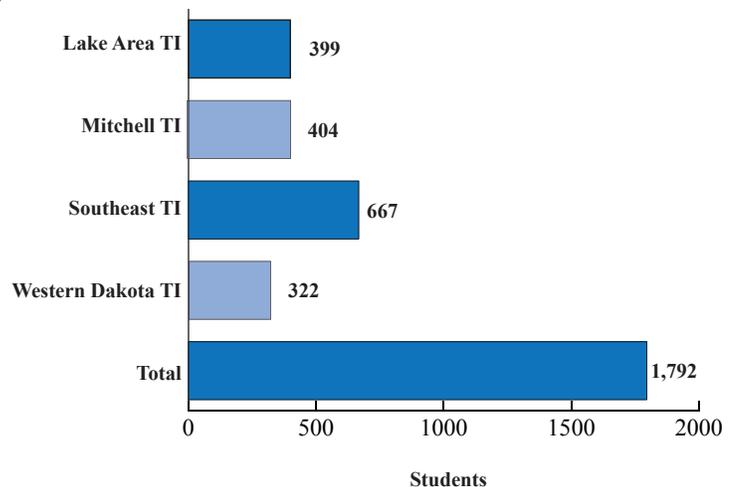
Mitchell Technical Institute, Mitchell  
 1-800-MTI-1969  
<http://mti.tec.sd.us/>

Western Dakota Technical Institute, Rapid City  
 (605) 394-4034 or 1-800-544-8765  
<http://westerndakotatech.org>

### Post-Secondary Technical Institutes Enrollment (Fall)



### Program Completers by Technical Institutes (2002-03)



Nearly 82 percent of South Dakota's technical institute completers are employed in the state, demonstrating the tremendous impact of technical education on state and local economies.

## Finances

For fiscal year 2004, the Department of Education’s budget totaled nearly \$476.5 million. A majority of these dollars flowed through the department to local school districts in the form of state aid or federal grants. They covered items such as Title I programs, the National School Lunch program and aid to Special Education. The department’s operational budget accounted for just 3.8 percent of the total.

### Department of Education Budget Breakdown (FY04)

#### State Aid

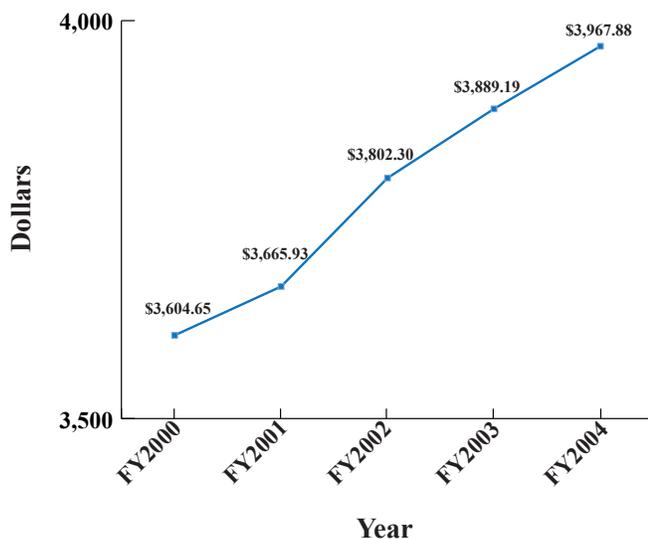
State Aid to General Education	\$270,763,321
State Aid to Special Education	\$41,106,875
Alternative Education Programs	\$450,000
Nat’l Board Certified Teachers	\$60,000
Technology in Schools	\$10,751,325
State Aid to Post-Secondary Institutes	\$15,752,326
<b>TOTAL STATE AID</b>	<b>\$338,883,847</b>

#### Grants Distributed (by DOE Office)

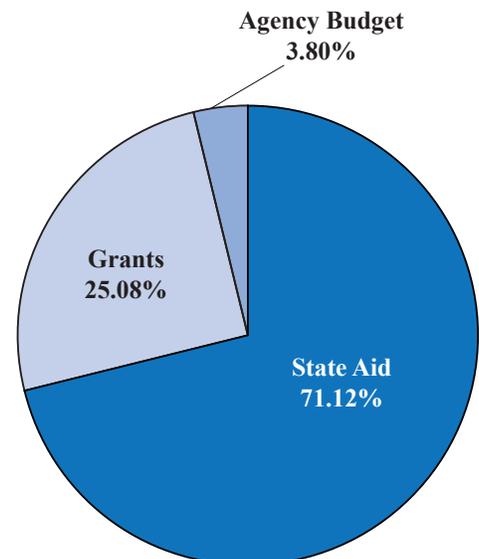
General Administration	\$7,926,395
Career & Technical Education	\$3,931,200
Curriculum, Technology & Assessment	\$10,987,157
Accreditation & Teacher Quality	\$12,813,569
School Enhancement	\$28,449,919
	(includes Child & Adult Nutrition)
Educational Services & Support	\$55,104,930
	(includes Title I and Special Ed)
State Library	\$280,911
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>\$119,494,081</b>

<b>Operational Budget</b>	<b>\$18,117,599</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$476,495,527</b>

**Per Student Allocation of General State Aid**



**Department of Education Budget Percentages (FY04)**



## Staff & Boards

### Department of Education Management Team

Dr. Rick Melmer	Secretary
Deborah Barnett	Deputy Secretary
Dr. Tammy Bauck	Director, Office of Curriculum, Technology & Assessment
Kris Conzet	Grant Writer
Stacy Krusemark	Director, Office of Finance & Management
Dorothy Liegl	Acting Director, Office of State Library
Diane Lowery	NCLB Coordinator
Wade Pogany	Director, Office of School Enhancement
Janet Ricketts	Director, Office of Educational Services and Support
Melody Schopp	Director, Office of Accreditation & Teacher Quality
Gloria Smith-Rockhold	Acting Director, Office of Career & Technical Education
Mary Stadick Smith	Communications Director

### Board of Education Members

Glenna Fouberg	President, Aberdeen (expires 12/05)
Dr. Kelly Duncan-Clark	Vice President, Dakota Dunes (expires 12/04)
Elmer Bietz	Tripp (expires 12/04)
Jack Broome	Burke (expires 12/06)
Barbara Everist	Sioux Falls (expires 12/07)
Dr. Richard Gowen	Rapid City (expires 12/06)
Marilyn Hoyt	Huron (expires 12/05)
Carolyn J. Mollers	Rapid City (expires 12/04)
Roger Porch	Philip (expires 12/07)

### State Library Board Members

Kraig Keck	Chair, Sioux Falls (expires 7/1/04)
Richard Van Beek	Vice Chair, Aberdeen (expires 7/1/06)
Dr. Eric Abrahamson	Rapid City (expires 7/1/04)
Linda Daugaard	Garretson (expires 7/1/07)
Michelle Howard	Brookings (expires 7/1/07)
Joe Van De Rostyne	Aberdeen (expires 7/1/06)
Warren Wilson	Vermillion (permanent member)